

**Before the State of South Carolina
Department of Insurance**

In the Matter of:

SCDOI File Number 120940

Audrey A. Thompson

1434B Dover Road
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29301.

**Consent Order
Imposing Administrative Penalty
And Allowing Licensing**

This matter comes before me pursuant to an agreement entered into between the State of South Carolina Department of Insurance and Audrey A. Thompson, an applicant for professional bondsman/runner in the State of South Carolina.

Audrey A. Thompson acknowledges that she failed to disclose a conviction for "Assault and Battery" on her application for Runner Bail Bondsman license. This is a direct violation of South Carolina Code of Laws, Sections 38-53-150 (3) that can ultimately lead to the denial of a bondsman/runner's license to transact business in South Carolina.

Prior to the initiation of any administrative proceedings by the Department against Audrey A. Thompson, the parties agreed to submit the entire matter to me, along with their specific recommendation, for my summary decision, rather than to proceed toward a formal public hearing. The consensual recommendation was that, in lieu of the Department denying issuance of a bondsman/runner's license, she would waive her right to a public hearing and immediately pay an administrative fine in the total amount of \$300.

Section 38-13-160 of the South Carolina Code states that, "The director or his designee may require any authorized insurer or its officers to answer any inquiry in relation to its transactions, condition, or any connected matter necessary to the administration of the insurance laws of the State. Every corporation or person must reply in writing to the inquiry promptly and truthfully, and every reply must be verified, if required by the director or his designee, by the individual or by the officer or officers of a corporation as he designates." Section 38-5-120 states, in pertinent part, that the Director of Insurance "shall revoke or suspend certificates of authority granted to an insurer...if he is of the opinion upon examination or other evidence that...(t)he insurer has not complied with the law or with the provisions of its charter." Alternatively, § 38-5-130 provides that in lieu of license revocation or suspension, the Director may impose a monetary penalty as provided in § 38-2-10.

After a thorough review of the record, carefully considering the recommendation of the parties, and pursuant to my findings of fact, I hereby conclude as a matter of law, that Audrey A. Thompson has violated § 38-53-150 (3). Although I can now deny the bondsman/runner's

A.T. Audrey A. Thompson

license, I hereby invoke the discretionary authority given to me and impose against Audrey A. Thompson an administrative fine in the total amount of \$300. That fine must be paid within ten days of the date of my signature upon this Consent Order. If that total fine amount is not timely paid, the bondsman/runner's license will be denied without any further disciplinary proceedings.

This fine has been reached by the parties as a result of negotiation and compromise, and in consideration of Audrey A. Thompson's assurance that she will comply with all statutes and regulations of this Department. This penalty includes all expenses related to investigation of this matter as provided in § 38-13-70 of the South Carolina Code. The parties expressly agree and understand payment of the agreed-upon penalty constitutes full accord and satisfaction of this matter. By the signature of Audrey A. Thompson upon this consent order, she acknowledges this administrative order as a public record subject to the disclosure requirements of the State of South Carolina's *Freedom of Information Act*, S.C. Code Ann. §§ 30-4-10, *et seq.* (1991 and Supp. 2000).


Nothing contained within this administrative order should be construed to limit, or to deprive any person of, any private right of action under the law. Nothing contained within this administrative order should be construed to limit, in any manner, the criminal jurisdiction of any law enforcement officer or judicial officer. Nothing contained within this administrative order should be construed to limit the statutory duty, of the Director of Insurance, exercised either directly or through the Department of Insurance, to "report to the Attorney General or other appropriate law enforcement officials criminal violations of the laws relative to the business of insurance or the provisions of this title which he considers necessary to report." S.C. Code Ann. § 38-3-110 (Supp. 2003).

It is, therefore, ordered that Audrey A. Thompson shall, within ten days of the date of my signature on this consent order, pay through the South Carolina Department of Insurance an administrative fine in the total amount of \$300.

It is further ordered that a copy of this consent order be immediately transmitted to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for distribution to its member states.

This consent order becomes effective as of the date of my signature below.

June 14¹⁵, 2004
Columbia, South Carolina


Ernst N. Csiszar
Director

A.T. Audrey A. Thompson

I CONSENT:

Audrey Thompson

Signature

Audrey Thompson

Printed Name

Title

Audrey A. Thompson
1434B Dover Road
Spartanburg, South Carolina 29301

Dated this 14 day of June 2004.

A.T. Audrey A. Thompson